

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABU DH 00921 280437Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 TRSE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /043 W
-----280444Z 004175 /21

R 271033Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5842
INFO USDOC WASHDC
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 0921

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EFIN, BTIO, TC
SUBJ: 1977 ABU DHABI DEVELOPMENT BUDGET

1. ABU DHABI'S 1977 DEVELOPMENT BUDGET IS PRESENTLY WEND-
ING ITS WAY THROUGH ADG'S APPROVAL PROCESS, AND DEPT. OF
PLANNING SOURCE ANTICIPATES FINAL ACTION WITHIN NEXT TWO
MONTHS. ALTHOUGH EMBOFF WAS UNABLE TO OBTAIN COPY OF
OFFICIAL BUDGET SUBMISSION, FOLLOWING FIGURES, GATHERED
FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES, GIVE GOOD INDICATION OF DIREC-
TION OF DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE IN ABU DHABI:

(MILLIONS OF DIRHAMS) (\$1 EQUALS 3.90 DH.)

CATEGORY	1976	APPROX. 1976	1977
	BUDGET	EXPENDITURES	BUDGET SUBMISSION
EDUCATION	226	80	145
HEALTH	235	35	361
SEWAGE	560	200	385

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MULIC			
BUILDINGS	599	500	1140
AGRICUL	138	25	119
COMMUNICATION			
AND TRAN-			
SPORT	782	645	805
HOUSING	175	105	456

TOURISM	13	10	134
INDUSTRY	1733	1300	1403
UNALLOC-			
ATED	500	-----	500
TOTAL:	4961	2900	5448

2. PLANNING DEPT OFFICIALS HAVE TERMED INDUSTRY AND HOUSING "PRIOTUTY AREAS" IN THE 1977 DEVELOPMENT BUDGET. INDUSTRY CATEGORY INCLUDES EXPENDITURES FOR ELECTRICITY AND WATER UTILITIES WHICHIS GREATER PART OF INDUSTRY TOTAL. HOWEVER, EXPENDITURE ON NON-UTILITY INDUSTRY IS KNOWN TO BE GROWING RAPIDLY.IN-CREASES IN ALLOTMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND HOUSING WILL PARTIALLY OFFSET SIGNIFI-CANT DROP IN CONSTRUCTION OF PRIVATE BUILDINGS. NONETHELESS, MANY OF ABU DHABI'S BUILDERS WILL FACE LEAN PERIOD FOR NEXT FEW YEARS AT LEAST.

3. ALLOCATIONS FOR HEALTH AND TOURISM ARE BELIEVED TO LARGELY REFLECT EXPENDITURE REQUIEMENTS FOR ONGOING CONSTRUCTION OF HOSPITAL AND HOTEL PROJECTS.

4. ALLOCATION FOR SEWAGE REFLECTS EXPENDITURE RE-QUIREMENT FOR ONGOING PROJECTS OF SEWERAGE PROJECTS COMMITTEE.

5. MOST OALLOCATION FOR COMMUNICATION AND TRANS-PORT IS FOR AIRPORT, HIGHWAY AND PORT PROJECTS.

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6. ALLOCATION FOR AGRICULTURE IS LARGELY FOR FORESTATION PROJECTS - SHAIKH ZAYID'S EFFORT TO TURN THE DESERT GREE,

7. ALTHOUGH 1977 BUDGET FIGURE OF 5448 MILLION DIRHAMS AMOUNTS TO NEAR DOUBLING OF 1976 EXPENDI-TURES, INCREASE OVER TOAL OF '76 DEVELOPMENT BUDGET IS MUCH MORE MODEST 10 PERCENT. SO MANY MAJOR PROJECTS WERE DELAYED,MODIFIED, OR CANCELLED DURING 1976 THATACTUAL '76 DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURES FELL FAR SHORT OF THE 4961 MILLION DIRHAMS WHICH WAS BUDGETED. LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE IN 1977 WILL AGAIN DEPEND NOT SO MUCH ON THE SIZE OF THE BUDGET AS ON THE GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO CARRY OUT ITS DEVELOP-MENT PLANS IN A TIMELY MANNER. ONE KNOWLEDGEABLE ADG SOURCE PREZJCTS THAT 1977 DEVELOPMENT EXPENDI-TURE WILL COME CLOSER TO MATCHING THE BUDGET THAN IN 1976 BUT WILL STILL FALL ABOUT 20 PERCENT SHORT OF CON-SUMING THE FULL AMOUNT BUDGETED.

DICKMAN

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Message Attributes

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